

# MRS. HALL BEGINS BATTLE FOR LIFE

Enters Upon Her Formal Trial on Charge of Murdering Husband.

## TWO WITNESSES EXAMINED

Father of Slain Man and Teacher Give Evidence Favorable to Accused.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Richmond, Va., July 25.—White of face, but stern of heart, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Hall, charged with the murder of her husband, Victor K. Hall, on the dark morning of April 13, entered today upon her formal trial. Beside her sat a lawyer whose face was whiter than her own. R. Lindsay Gordon is working with untiring effort to save his client from a chair of gulf and heavy lines are drawn about his lips. Next to him are seated his brother, Alexander T. Gordon, upon whom he often sits, and his father, the noted attorney of Richmond, Opposite them are Commonwealth's Attorney W. C. Bibb and M. J. Fulton, of the Richmond law firm of Fulton, O'Flaherty and Boyd. Seated in the front row, Sterling Hall, brother of the dead man, sits with the prosecution, while his father and mother give their support to the accused. It is a strange case. A man of blood is charged with the murder of a man of blood, and the father and mother of the slain man are given to a lately aliened heart. And amidst all this, it is the woman whose life or liberty the law may declare a forfeit.

With a few strokes of his pen, Mr. Gordon decided this morning who should be the twelve men to determine the fate of Mrs. Hall. From the tentative list he struck out A. L. Woodford, David C. Swift, K. K. Trotter, and A. J. Pleasant, leaving as the jury, W. J. Hiter, S. C. Woodson, Julian Jacobs, C. W. Isbell, M. E. Nuckolls, O. C. Keen, E. B. Winston, H. E. Riddell, W. C. Massey, C. V. Jackson, and W. M. Bickley. The jurymen were immediately sworn and the trial formally began. Again Mrs. Hall was forced to listen to the indictment, and again she passed through the ordeal without a tremor.

## OPENING STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY HIRSH Commonwealth's Attorney Bibb described the opening statement in the prosecution, declaring that it will appear from the evidence that all the circumstances of the crime taken together and as a whole will place the guilt upon Mrs. Hall. He pointed out, in glowing and glowing terms, the evidence that she had held an attention wholly undivided, and all the courtroom listened. He was sorrowful rather than accusing. From his lips fell no criticism of those whose suspicion still rests upon Mrs. Hall. He appeared rather for consideration of all the circumstances surrounding the crime, circumstances, which he said, will place the blame of the white-faced woman who sat beside him.

The courtroom was packed to-day with a crowd larger than any of those which have been gathered here. From the countryside motored, drove and walked to the courthouse this morning, and at an early hour every seat was taken. There was a chance to catch a glimpse of Mrs. Hall when she entered as the bell tolled the opening hour of court. She came for the deep pallor over her face, in strong contrast to the woman's words, and she appeared calm. She greeted several friends with a smile, and when court adjourned for dinner, she was seen to be smiling. Her sisters married the morning before, and both appeared here for the first time. When court adjourned for the day Mrs. Hall came up to the newspaper representatives and said to them, "I am glad to see you here, and she smiled as she made the request, and she was without reproach.

Only two witnesses were examined today—N. W. Hall and Miss Elsie Wood. Both were called by the defense, and their examination by the Commonwealth was more or less perfunctory. Their evidence was favorable to Mrs. Hall. It is said, however, that when the Commonwealth later to refute some of the statements made today.

## DEFENSE STRIKES OFF

NAMES OF THREE JURYMEN Immediately after the prosecution called court to order, R. Lindsay Gordon, of counsel for the defense, named a group of jurymen, and the names of three jurymen were struck from the list of the sixteen jurymen. The jurymen who were struck were Mr. Hiter, Mr. Woodson, and Mr. Julian Jacobs. The jurymen who were struck were Mr. Hiter, Mr. Woodson, and Mr. Julian Jacobs. The jurymen who were struck were Mr. Hiter, Mr. Woodson, and Mr. Julian Jacobs.

## NO LONGER RIVER OF DOUBT

Brazilian Government Changes Name to "Rio Theodore." (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Colonel Theodore, the Brazilian officer who accompanied Colonel Roosevelt on his expedition, proposed the name "Rio Theodore" for the river. The name "Rio Theodore" was proposed by the Brazilian officer who accompanied Colonel Roosevelt on his expedition.

## KERMIT TO BECOME BANKER

Young Roosevelt Will Act as Representative in Rio de Janeiro. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

New York, July 25.—Kermit Roosevelt, the son of the late President, is to act as representative of the United States in Rio de Janeiro.

## SEARCH FOR TWO BANDITS

Hold Up Twenty-five Caches in Yellowstone Park and Rob 165 People. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

## COST OF CANAL TOLLS

Fifty Vessels Apply to Surveyor of Port for Measurement. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

## DROWNED IN RIVER TRAGEDY

At Least One and Possibly Four Dead as Result of Collision. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

## WHITE CHILD LOST IN JAPAN

Remarkable Story of Experiences Told by Ten-Year-Old Girl. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

## FIRST TRIP THROUGH CANAL

Stenier Cristoforo to Go From Colon to Balboa on Sunday. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

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## STEPHENSON WILL RETIRE

Oldest Member of Senate Not Candidate for Re-Election. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Marionette, Wis., July 25.—Senator Stephen Stephenson, the oldest member of the United States Senate, said he would not be a candidate for re-election.

# SAVS PROHIBITION LAW'S FAULT

Openly Violated in Cities of South, Declares Mayor Preston.

## APPROVES OF HIGH LICENSE

Brings Invitation to Attend "Star Spangled Banner" Centennial in Baltimore.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Mayor Preston, of Baltimore, at the Jefferson Hotel last night, "confirms my belief that prohibition as a method of dealing with the liquor question is a failure. I have had opportunity to observe the working of the law in the Southern prohibition States through which we have passed on this trip and have found that, in the cities at least, it is quite openly violated."

"In my opinion a prohibitory law which takes away from the legitimate liquor business its legal status and leaves in its place an irregular traffic which it is impossible to regulate, is fundamentally wrong. When such a law not only does not prohibit, but takes from the State treasury a large revenue that was formerly received from the legitimate regulation of the business, it is nothing less than a failure."

There is only one solution of the liquor problem, and it does not lie in prohibition. The Southern States which now have prohibition, as well as the other States of the South, will find the ultimate solution in strict regulation coupled with high license. That plan places the sale of liquor in the hands of responsible dealers, and saves to the State the revenue that should flow from every business within its borders. Prohibition destroys the revenue without destroying the abuse."

## PERSONAL OBSERVATION

Mayor Preston prefaced his remarks on the liquor laws with the statement that he was loath to express himself on a controversial subject. He was aware that Virginia was engaged in a keen discussion of the merits of prohibition just at this time, and he felt that it could or could not be made to work well in this State. His views on prohibition were strictly personal, he said, and based on personal observation and study.

The Mayor arrived in the city last night, accompanied by a distinguished delegation from the Maryland metropolitan area. The party reached town at 7:30 o'clock from Norfolk and registered at the Jefferson Hotel. A change in the itinerary brought the delegation to Richmond last night instead of early this morning, when it was expected.

Mayor Preston and his party brought to the city an official invitation to attend the Star Spangled Banner Centennial celebration, which will take place in Baltimore on July 25-26. The party left Baltimore on July 23 on a tour of Western and Southern cities in the interest of the centennial and completes the leg of a 4,000-mile journey in Richmond. From here, the Baltimoreans will go to Washington for a stay of a few hours. They are due in Baltimore tomorrow night.

## LEADING CITIES

Since leaving Baltimore, the delegation has visited in the order named, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Toledo, Cincinnati, Louisville, Cincinnati, Louisville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Birmingham, Atlanta, Savannah, Jacksonville, Augusta, Columbia, Raleigh and Norfolk. While in the cities, the Mayor and his party will be the guests of Mayor of each city.

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## PAVORS POLICY

The Mayor spoke with interest of questions of State and city policy, and made inquiries concerning Virginia's activities in road building with the Federal Government. He expressed his approval of the Federal Government's method of dealing with the road problem.

"I am here on an errand of peace," he said, "and I don't think it would be wise to discuss regional reserves."

# RUSSIA MOBILIZING ARMY CORPS APPARENTLY TO STAND BY SERBIA



Count Berchtold, the Prime Minister of Austria.

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## SCENES OF EXHAUSTION

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